

WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY MORNING, SEPT. 18, 1857.

TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE.—THE LOSS OF THE STEAMER CENTRAL AMERICA.

The suspense in the public mind in regard to the missing steamer Central America has at length terminated—and the termination is truly appalling. It will be seen by a brief despatch in our telegraphic column, from Charleston, that intelligence has reached that port of the ill-fated steamer. She foundered at sea off Cape Hatteras on the 12th of September. Sixty passengers were saved. The remainder, estimated at five hundred, perished in the sea. This is by far one of the most appalling disasters that we have ever been called upon to record. Scarcely days must elapse before the particulars of this fearful calamity can reach us.

The Central America was commanded by Captain W. L. Herndon, of the United States navy, whose explorations of the Amazon have made his name familiar to the scientific world of Europe and America. He was a native of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and was regarded as one of the bravest and most accomplished officers of our navy. His loss will be widely and deeply deplored.

The number of passengers stated to have been lost we believe to be under estimated, as the Empire City reported that the Central America had on board seven hundred passengers. Her crew could not have been less than one hundred, and if the number of survivors is given correctly, there is too much reason to believe that nearly seven hundred and fifty lives were lost by this frightful disaster.

INDIANS AND NEGROES.

Of the countless tribes of real native Americans who inhabited that part of the continent within our national jurisdiction, only about half a million Indians are still remaining. In wars, mostly among themselves, and the diseases incident to their situation and relations to the European races, the residue have perished. Unless as preserved in tradition, and in a limited number of printed volumes, even the names of hundreds of tribes have been forgotten or lost. But many of the noble, brave, and generous of the race survive, scattered mostly between Niagara and the Rocky mountains and the Pacific coast. Those east of the great cataract have mostly disappeared with the advance of the whites, and few are now left east of the Mississippi, and they are diminishing in numbers west of it. Under our constitution we have a broad power to regulate our intercourse with those who remain. By treaties and legislation we can operate, with almost unlimited effect, upon their present and future interests and welfare. Whatever human philanthropy can accomplish in educating and civilizing them, and sheltering them from the wide-spread evils which abandoned whites scatter broadcast, is within the undisputed authority of the national government. Here is a broad field for the exercise of the best motives and kindest influences which characterize the white man's impulses and energies. Let him shelter and protect the red man, teach him how to live and to become civilized, and to worship the true God. Instead of driving him from the continent and extinguishing his noble and manly race with vices which follow civilization, instruct him in our virtues, and make him, when no power could enslave or humble, our equal, and perpetuate his race with its increased and multiplied virtues.

Having taken from him, through right and through wrong, a continent once rightfully his, and reduced his red family to a limited circle, let us unite in doing whatever wisdom and philanthropy may dictate to protect and preserve him and them in future, and elevate him as high as persevering ingenuity can raise him. Both policy and duty demand this at our hands.

The negro differs as widely from the red man as from the white. Like the white man, he came here not to possess his own, but to occupy, in conjunction with him, the domains of the original red owner. The negro left his native land not because he had not the right to remain and enjoy it, but because he became the subject of power, first of his own countrymen in selling, and then of the whites in buying him, without regard to his personal rights, interests, or wishes, and he and his descendants became residents in America, and servants to another and controlling race. In framing our national institutions the importations from abroad of persons to be held to service, after a limited period, was forever prohibited. Except provision for surrender of those escaping from one State to another, all control over this class was left with the respective States for their exclusive management and control, and each State acts for itself, with responsibility neither to her sisters nor the federal government. No effort, however common or extended in other States or in Congress, can change the condition or rights of either party in a single instance. Each State must and will act for herself with reference to her own views of right and duty, and is responsible to herself alone.

In this condition of things, it cannot fail to strike all sensible and fair minds with special wonder that the Indian, whose domain we occupy, with all his claim to our sympathy, is overlooked and forgotten, and those of the negro alone clamorously urged upon the consideration of the national government. What the government can constitutionally and lawfully do for the aborigines—the real native American—attracts no consideration and demands no action; while, in relation to the negro, Congress and the people are clamorously called upon to do what neither has the least right to perform. Newspapers teem with incendiary articles, and demagogues rave with frantic declamatory rant, in relation to what they cannot constitutionally or lawfully change, while both seek over the receding opportunity to extend the saving hand to Nature's noble red man, whose race is coolly left to disappear with the setting sun, and to live only in legends and poetry. The American negro, whose position is happier and more elevated than the kings and emperors of his former native land, and who would not return there to become their equal, commands a noisy, wordy sympathy, while the rights of the American forest prince and his kindred, and our duty to them, fall to awaken even common solicitude. Why is this? The reason is easily understood. Political considerations constitute the difference. No political party can attain power by espousing, with special zeal, the cause of the red man. All can agree to obtain and use his lands, crowding him towards sunset, whether he finds a resting place or not. But the negro in servitude is in one end of the Union, and it is expected to arouse a sectional feeling against that portion

of the republic, and those holding him in bondage. This is a cheap patriotism, deemed harmless at home, and which cuts off no speculation. Those engaged in this warfare have no more affection for the negro than for the red man. They hope to attain political power, caring no more for the negro than the Indian, nor anything for the consequences to our institutions which may result from their illegal acts.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Among the prominent questions to be brought before the colonial Parliament of New South Wales, which it was expected would commence its session towards the end of last month, the readjustment of the representative system, the management of the crown lands, adequate educational provisions, and some new fiscal measures are deeply agitating the public mind in the colony. A more regular and exact communication with England is greatly desired, and the Pacific route from Panama is again occupying a large share of attention. The public revenues of the colony are increasing, credit is good, and many articles of import of large consumption are selling at advanced prices.

The value of the imports into New South Wales for the first four months of this year was \$9,316,675, against \$8,906,840 in the corresponding period of 1856. The value of exports was \$5,208,480, against \$6,670,950 in the corresponding period of 1856. This falling off is owing to heavy floods which prevented transport in the interior, and an epidemic among sheep which destroyed many thousands, and will reduce the yield of wool fully 6,000 bales.

As the direct trade between the United States and this extensive wool-growing colony is annually increasing, and must continue still more to increase, under the operation of our new tariff, we present below a few general remarks on the commercial relations between the United States and New South Wales. Prior to 1836 there were no official returns or other evidences of any trade between the two countries. That year six vessels bearing the American flag entered the harbor of Sydney with cargoes valued at \$69,510, and carrying homeward freights to the value of \$92,970. From that period to 1850 but little advance was made either in the import or export trade of that colony, if we except the year 1841, the returns for which year show the following results:

Number of American vessels entered the ports of New South Wales, 13; aggregate tonnage.....	4,754
Value of exports from the United States.....	\$176,410
Value of imports into the United States.....	24,185
In 1853 the value of exports from the United States to New South Wales was.....	148,450
Value of imports into New South Wales from New South Wales.....	24,405
In 1853 the value of exports from the United States to New South Wales was.....	1,093,975
Value of imports into United States from New South Wales.....	15,140

The great discrepancy between the exports to and imports from New South Wales arises in a great measure from the duty to which the wool of that colony has heretofore been subjected under former tariffs, the total exemption from duty of this article in Great Britain drawing to the ports of that kingdom the large bulk of the quantity produced, averaging, during the four years ending with 1853, 14,246,239 pounds per year.

The articles which our merchants could advantageously ship to New South Wales are wearing apparel, hogs and sacks, cheese, candles, (tallow and sperm), coffee, preserves, drugs and medicines, salt fish, flour and biscuit, furniture, glassware, hardware, and ironware, leather manufactures, linens, provisions, spirits, (chiefly rum and whiskey), stationery and books, sugar, tobacco, woodenware, watches and clocks, and general notions.

Tariff of duties levied on imports into New South Wales.

Spirits—brandy and gin.....	per gallon, \$2 40
Whiskey, rum, and other spirits.....	do 1 68
Spirits, cordials, or strong waters, sweetened or mixed with any other article so that the degree of strength cannot be ascertained by Sykes's hydrometer.....	do 2 40
Perfumed spirits.....	do 1 68
Wine containing more than 25 per cent. of alcohol, of a specific gravity of .825 at the temperature of 60° of Fahrenheit's thermometer, for every gallon, in proportion to strength.....	do 4
Wine not containing more than 25 per cent., &c.....	do 48
Ale, porter, and beer of all sorts in wood.....	do 2
do do do in bottles.....	do 4
Tea.....	per pound, 6
Sugar—refined and candy.....	per cwt., 1 60
unrefined.....	do 1 20
Treacle and molasses.....	do 80
Coffee and chicory.....	per pound, 4
Cigars.....	do 72
Tobacco and snuff.....	do 48

On exports there are no duties.

In regard to the best means of promoting the commercial relations of the United States with this colony, a correspondent at Sydney informs the Department of State that "the abolition of the duty on wool imported into the United States would have a tendency materially to augment the trade between the two countries, as then ships bringing cargoes from the United States would readily obtain return cargoes of an article of large consumption there, and would thus add not only to the profits of those who might be directly engaged in the trade, but would also contribute to the prosperity of one of the most important branches of our manufactures, and more remotely to the general welfare of all industrial pursuits in our country. Another, and no doubt the most important, step which could be taken for promoting the commercial interests of our country in this region would be the establishment of steam communication between the two countries by way of Panama."

If the explorations and surveys now being made on the isthmus of Panama, and which, from the reports recently published in the leading journals of the United States, should result, as they are likely to do, in solving the problem of interoceanic communication between the Atlantic and Pacific, this direct route to New South Wales, China, and the East Indies would soon become the world's thoroughfare, and the Suez canal would eventually be abandoned. The successful completion of a ship-canal across the isthmus of Darien, whether along the bed of the river Chagres as high up as Cruces, and thence to the bay of Panama, as now contemplated, or by any more feasible or practicable route, would produce a complete revolution in the commercial movements of Christendom.

SENATOR BIGLER.

This distinguished gentleman arrived in this city yesterday, and is stopping at Willard's Hotel. His numerous friends here and elsewhere will be pleased to learn that he is in the enjoyment of excellent health and spirits.

THE MAINE ELECTION.

Maine held her State election on Monday last, the 14th instant, and the result thus far shows heavy democratic gains. At the presidential election the State went for Fremont by about 25,000 majority. The vote stood thus:

Fremont.....	87,019
Buchanan.....	39,080
Fillmore.....	8,325
	42,405

Sectional majority over all others..... 24,970
Do do Buchanan..... 23,290

Returns by telegraph have been received from 175 towns, which give Morrill (black-republican) a majority of 8,060 votes over Smith (democrat) for governor. Hamlin's majority last year from the same towns was 13,234; thus showing a republican loss this year of 5,174.

The Bangor Union of Tuesday morning says: "The election passed off quietly in this city, and we believe throughout the State yesterday. The democracy put forth no effort and relied simply upon the natural reaction of the people, while the republicans had their chief speakers in the field with some imported thunder. The result we lay before our readers, so far as received by telegraph last evening, which is of the most cheering character."

"While the vote generally has fallen off, as, for instance, 1,168 in this city, the net democratic gain is very large. In seventy-eight towns the net gain is 8,400. In this ratio throughout the State the net democratic gain will be 20,000. The democratic minority last year was 31,196."

"In several cities and towns the democratic gain is especially gratifying—Bangor 360, Bath 830, Rockland, the nest of Kallach and Fessenden, 450, Gardiner 403, Portland 658, Biddeford 403, Ellsworth 248. In only five towns of the 78 towns referred to have the republicans made a gain, and that of only 85 votes."

"In Penobscot county we have made a gain of three representatives, in Kennebec, Exeter, and Heron districts, and probably have gained six, in place of none last year."

"The democracy have reason to rejoice at the cheering prospect of the wane of sectionalism in this State. It has reached its maximum, and must now be growing 'small by degrees and beautifully less.' Let us take heart for the future of Maine!"

The Portland Argus of the same day says: "The vote of the State will total 20,000 short of the vote of last year. While the vote for Mr. Smith will come up to that for Gov. Wells last year, the vote for Morrill will not come up to Hamlin's by many thousands."

THE CANVASS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The canvass in Massachusetts has fairly opened. The Boston Post of Wednesday says:

"The democracy of Boston made their first grand rally of the present political campaign last evening in State street, and for several hours the greatest enthusiasm prevailed in that locality. The delegations from the various sections of the city began to assemble at an early hour, and at 8 o'clock there was a very large number of persons present. In a short time they entirely filled the square at the east end of the old State-house, and extended even into the numerous avenues leading therefrom. As the democrats from various wards appeared in procession they were hailed with cheers of welcome from those of their brethren who had already taken their positions to hear the speakers of the evening. The Brigade Band were playing some of their most swelling airs, and grand displays of fireworks, with Bengal lights at the top of the building, gave to the locality a very brilliant appearance. All around was to be seen a 'sea of upturned faces'—far in front and to the extreme right and left. There were at least 5,000 persons present."

The sentiment uttered by the speakers (continues the Post) was of the right stamp: "it was uniformly in favor of standing by the democratic flag, and treating the two factions as one enemy; and this sentiment met with a most cordial response from the people. The speeches referred to more particularly in another place from gentlemen of different parts of the Commonwealth, and showed the harmony that animates the democrats of the State."

We learn by telegraph that the democratic State convention, which met on Wednesday last, nominated by acclamation E. D. Beach, of Springfield, for governor, and Albert Curtis, of Newburyport, for lieutenant governor.

HON. J. A. QUITMAN.

The Natchez Free Trader announces the departure of Gen. Quitman from that city on the 1st inst. for the Hot Springs, in Arkansas, for the purpose of recruiting his health, which has been impaired ever since his return from Washington City. He expects to be absent two weeks, after which he will enter actively in the canvass for Congress in his district. Up to this time the "old hero" has no opponent, and it seems to be understood that he is not to be opposed.

The Little Rock (Arkansas) True Democrat of the 8th inst. has the following:

Hon. J. A. QUITMAN.—Wherever this distinguished soldier and statesman may go in the South, he is greeted with the warmest feelings of his countrymen. On his way to the Hot Springs in this State, last week, he spent a day or two in our city, and was waited upon very generally by our citizens, and had all the respect and courtesy shown him to which his eminent services to the country so deservedly entitle him.

Gen. Quitman is a candidate again to represent the people of Mississippi in Congress, and will be triumphantly elected. In all the high positions he has occupied he has discharged his duty with ability, fidelity, and to the entire satisfaction of the people.

Gen. Quitman visits the Hot Springs for his health, and we trust his hopes of a restoration may be fully and speedily fulfilled.

THE CANVASS IN OHIO.

The Ironout (Ohio) Spirit of the Times, in its account of the late democratic mass meetings there, thus alludes to the speech delivered on that occasion by Mr. Payne, the democratic candidate for governor of Ohio:

"Mr. Payne took a survey of parties in this State, and of the issues presented by each. His most prejudiced opponents cannot but admit that he discussed the measures and the issues of the day in a fair, dignified, and able manner. Every topic was handled with skill, and every thoroughly sifted before it was passed over. At each point at issue, the authorities were cited so conclusive that no room was left for cavil or further doubt."

"Mr. Payne made a good impression here. He will get the votes of influential men who have never supported democratic candidates for governor. And he will be the next chief magistrate of Ohio! Sciota county will give him a majority worthy of himself."

LAUNCH OF THE GREAT EASTERN.

The Canadian (London) News of the 2d inst. says it is authorized to state that the Great Eastern steamship "will be launched in the first spring tides of next month, (October). The day is not as yet absolutely fixed, but this important event will probably take place on Monday, the 5th of that month. The tides will be highest on that day."

The same journal describes with minuteness a route of pleasure travel through the United States to Chicago and St. Louis, and which is extended on the European continent to Germany and Switzerland, for which "Great Eastern tourist tickets" are to be provided:

"This tour can be accomplished (say) from New York and back in about eight weeks, including the two passages across the Atlantic; but to those less pressed for time it can be advantageously extended to ten or eleven or thirteen weeks. The cost of a first class tourist ticket for the whole excursion of a little under 9,000 miles will be about \$50 sterling, or (say) \$280."

"Arrangements are also in progress for a more extended tour, which, in addition to the foregoing, and at an increased cost of about \$1100, will probably comprise Naples, Rome, Florence, Genoa, Milan, and Vienna, together with the passage across the Alps by Simplon."

DEPARTMENT NEWS.

STATE DEPARTMENT.

Frankfort-on-the-Maine.—Wheat, Rye, Corn, &c.—A correspondent at Frankfort, under date of 26th August, writes that the weather has become a trifle more cool; but the drought still continues, and even the grapes are suffering for moisture. The potato crop has seriously fallen off. It is now supposed the crop will be a meagre one and of an inferior quality. Wheat, rye, tobacco, and grape crops are good; whilst others are inferior; and for the sustenance of cattle are almost an entire failure. Still, as bread and wine are likely to be abundant, the harvest is generally called a good one.

The stock exchange has exhibited great dullness within the last few weeks, owing to considerable declines in other markets. The sensitiveness of the exchange exhibits a want of a healthy confidence. The Bank of Berlin has followed the example of the banks of Frankfort and Amsterdam by advancing the rate of discount. Today the market has recovered a little, owing to better quotations from Vienna, but capitalists at large appear to be expecting a further decline and better chances for making investments.

The troubles in India begin to excite a good share of attention. It is feared a large market is closed for a long time, and that there will be a drain of silver for the East.

The Frankfort fair opens to-day. The city is more crowded than ever known. Besides those called here by commerce, the number of travellers is unusually large. In America the great fairs occur in the large cities. In Germany the most destructive fairs take place in the agricultural villages, where the dwellings are mingled with the stables and barns in which are stored the corn, hay, &c. Within the last few weeks several calamitous fires have taken place in the neighboring governments, by which entire villages have been consumed, with the whole stock of provisions, leaving the inhabitants dependent on the charity of their neighbors. Harbuck, on the Moselle, was totally destroyed, and on Sunday last the village of Oberolm, near Mayence, had 300 buildings burned down, and more than one hundred families left destitute.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

Land Sales.—The President has signed proclamations for the sale of about 2,500,000 acres of the public lands in the State of California; about 450,500 acres in the State of Missouri; and for the sale of the unlocated tracts in the Sioux half-breed reservation on Lake Pepin, in the Territory of Minnesota. The sales in California will take place in the month of May next; those in Missouri and Minnesota in March next.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

The Western papers (says the Little Rock Democrat) of all parties speak in the highest terms of the Postmaster General. He is "winning golden opinions from all sorts of people" throughout the West by his promptness and efficiency in meeting the postal necessities of the Mississippi valley. Mr. Buchanan has truly been fortunate in his selection of his Postmaster General.

The following in relation to the mails in South Arkansas we clip from the Washington Telegraph: "OUR MAILS AND FACILITIES FOR TRAVEL.—The Postmaster General, we learn from reliable data, has authorized three additional trips a week on the stage route from this place to Gaines' Landing, which give a mail to that point six times a week instead of tri-weekly, as heretofore."

IMPORTANT FROM ST. DOMINGO.

We are indebted to the New York Herald for the following letter:

PORT AU PRINCE, August 25, 1857.

The arrival of three vessels from Boston with cargoes of provisions, and all on the point of discharging, has caused a slight fall in our market, which up to this moment has been in a healthy state. Coffee is nominally \$146, but with very little offering; the deliveries for the week scarcely reaching 1,800 bags.

During the absence of Mr. Lewis, the United States Consul for this port, Mr. Henry Bryant, officiates, and since his return he has been particularly active for Haiti. An edition of the *Monitor*, the government paper, issued on the 22d inst., after giving an account of the manifesto of the people of Santiago—a document that many Haytiens had already read in the New York Herald, files of which arrive by every vessel—goes on to say:

The troops of the province of Cibao encountered Baez while on the march towards the south, for the purpose of joining their forces with those of a neighboring State that had also declared in favor of the insurgents. Although inferior in numbers, they maintained their position until the arrival of reinforcements, when they drove back the St. Domingo troops with some loss.

General Puello was taken prisoner, and to save himself from a similar disgrace a colonel is said to have destroyed himself.

The leading organ of the revolutionists asserts that the war is one principle, and directed only against President Baez and his small faction. The same authority states that in eight days the provisional armies will surround the city of St. Domingo.

The provisional government have issued a declaration to all the partisans of Baez that a free pardon is granted, if within ten days they side with the republican party. To some persons this pardon is extended provided they remain inactive.

I have been kindly furnished with a letter which contains the following significant sentence: "President Baez has been obliged to leave St. Domingo, and all is again quiet; the provisional government are occupied in selecting a competent chief."

The Haytian government, as far as I can ascertain, has not yet taken any decided stand, although still recruiting soldiers.

We have further intelligence from St. Domingo by the way of Paris. The *Journal du Hare* of September 2 says:

"Letters from Port au Prince, received by the steamer La Plata, while confirming the report of the revolution against President Baez in the Dominican republic, announce that the insurgents have appealed to the Emperor Napoleon to obtain his aid, and wish to be annexed to the empire of Hayti. In answer to this appeal, the Emperor Napoleon was assembling his army near Genoa, where he was expected at the latest dates."

The Madrid *Espana* publishes details of the revolution which has broken out on several points of the republic of San Domingo. The province of Saybo gave the first signal, and on the 7th of July proclaimed itself independent of the capital.

On the next day the province of Santiago followed its example, and on the 10th the town of Puerto Plata joined the movement. The *Espana's* letters ascribe this rising to the indignation caused on the discovery of a scheme of President Baez to effect a grand and profitable operation in new tobacco, by means of an illegitimate issue of paper money. The republic of Saybo has proclaimed Gen. Santana first its President.

THE EXPRESS ROBBERY AT MADISON.—This robbery, so far, proves to have been committed by an "expert," who has yet succeeded in hiding, as well as stealing the money. A skillful detective from Chicago, who had been sent for to Madison, has returned; while another from Buffalo, we learn, gives up the business as a bad job. The Express Company have offered the following rewards: \$1,500 to be paid for the arrest and conviction of the thief or thieves, and the recovery of the money; \$1,000 for the recovery of the money alone, or in that proportion for any amount recovered, or \$500 for the arrest and conviction of the thief or thieves. The actual amount stolen is \$16,024 29, and is in bank notes, gold, and bonds, as follows: \$4,000 American gold; \$657 21 sovereigns, thalers, and Napoleons; \$5,000 California State bonds; \$3,122 92 Eastern, New York, New England currency; \$3,518 81 Illinois and Wisconsin currency.

Missouri News.

We copy the following from the Columbus (Mississippi) Democrat: J. M. Ater, mail carrier between Oxford and Supta, Miss., was arrested by D. P. Blair, special agent of the Post Office Department, on Saturday last, on a charge of robbing the mails. Evidence of his guilt was found in his person in half notes, drafts, &c., abstracted from the mails at different times since May last. A key to the mail sack was found on his person, by which he gained access to the mails. He was bound over to the United States court, at Pontotoc, in the sum of \$3,000, in default of which he was committed to jail. Ater is a young man, and up to the time of his arrest bore a good character.

DINNER TO COL. JEFFERSON DAVIS.

The democracy of De Soto county, Mississippi, gave to the gallant Davis a most cordial, hospitable, and complimentary welcome at Hernando on Saturday last. The quiet and unostentatious manner in which he reached the town prevented the citizens from extending to him, as we suppose was originally designed, a formal reception on his arrival. On Saturday last, an excellent dinner—modestly called a banquet—was prepared and served in the court-house enclosure, of which a large number of ladies and gentlemen partook. But previous to the discussion of creature comforts, provided in such lavish profusion by our De Soto neighbors, Colonel Davis addressed his fellow-citizens substantially as follows:

Col. Davis said: That he was most happy to meet his fellow-citizens of De Soto county, from whom he had been separated for six years, and to find on his return so many evidences of progress and prosperity. The rapid current of events had during this period been different, but he brought many changes, and presented issues which in any other era would require a century to bring forth. Among those changes, and that which was most gratifying to him, was the steady and rapid progress of the doctrines of State rights and the practical exhibition of southern independence. The first was the great cornerstone upon which the constitution rested, and the second was necessary to its preservation and the perpetuity of the Union. The antagonism of sectional interests, and the differences of political theory which rendered the compromises of the constitution so difficult of adjustment, only rendered them possible because they were the difference between nearly equal parties. Less now than then could we hope from generosity of fraternity, concessions from the North which we have not the power to demand.

The late administration, his connection with it, had been alluded to in complimentary terms by his friend, Gen. Nelms, was one with which he had become connected both against his personal wishes and interest. In accepting a position in the cabinet he acted in obedience to his Mississippi friends, who supposed that he might be of some service in the federal government. His shattered health at the time required repose, and the honorable controversy of 1851 was one which he desired to see to its final termination. For many years he had been a confidant of both political and personal friendship, he had entertained unflinching confidence in Franklin Pierce, as an honest man, a patriotic statesman, and a sincere adherent of the doctrine of strict construction and State rights for which he (Col. Davis) was unsuccessfully struggling when he last had the pleasure of meeting and mingling with the people of De Soto county. By the principles enunciated and the policy pursued by President Pierce he expected now and in all future time to stand or fall. If, as he inferred, from the language of Gen. Nelms, the delegate to receive and welcome him on this occasion, the late President had been fully committed in this regard, Col. Davis felt himself fully compensated for any sacrifice which the office of Secretary required him to make. To President Pierce the approbation of the right-minded people of the Union will be the more grateful and cheering because, even in his retirement, he has pursued by the execrations of the abolitionists and public plunderers.

He referred at some length to the mal-treatment and suffering of the insane paupers, and spoke in terms of high commendation of the philanthropic efforts of Miss Dix, who came like an angel into the dungeon of the chained maniac—oftentimes by her gentleness subduing his rage, causing of his father and mother to only to the sympathies of all who were cognizant of them, and that it happened that various legislatures, fixing their eye intently on the end, and disregarding the means by which it was to be accomplished, memorialized Congress in favor of granting lands to the insane paupers, and the establishment of asylums in the various States. Congress, responding to the pressure, enacted a law granting land for the purpose; but President Pierce, though he had neither less of feeling for the indigent insane, or willingness from his own purse to relieve their sufferings, turned, as a public agent, to the consideration of the effect of the establishment of asylums on his political conduct, and finding therein no warrant of authority which made the Congress the grand almoner of the nation, and conferred upon it power to establish eleemosynary institutions, he put his veto upon the act, and returned it to the Congress, where it failed by the want of the constitutional majority required in such cases. It is his earnest hope that various measures by which it was proposed, at the expense of the people of the whole country, and especially of the citizens of the South, to make internal improvements with such fortunate localities as should be able to command a majority of congressional votes.

Among other things, he particularly referred to the deepening of the mouth of the Mississippi, which, however important to himself and those who heard him, only constituted more strongly, for that reason, a case in which they were bound to assert and maintain their principles, as declared and reiterated in national and State conventions, in the legislature and popular bodies, and by which they were early and cordially arrayed in opposition to internal improvements by the federal government. He characterized the whole system as demoralizing, corrupting, and most dangerous to a pure administration of federal affairs, and deeply regretted that the Executive veto had been overruled by the ardent desire to get possession of the public treasury for particular, but not for general, internal improvements. What boots it that a man shall call himself a democrat, if, upon the great questions which divide parties, he shall be found in every conflict acting with the enemy? and when he has been beaten in combat after combat, it can but little console us that he still returns to our country, and shares in the same triumph of the nations which still belongs to democracy, as a majority, to distribute. It is the steady maintenance of this and all other principles of our party which constitute the nationality of the democracy; and if the national democracy cannot agree upon any cardinal principle of its faith, they are not a party, or, rather, the reverse should never have been declared.

He reviewed the various appointments to the gubernatorial office of Kansas, and alike exempted from censure both Mr. Pierce and Mr. Buchanan for the errors or misconduct of their appointees, upon the ground that their antecedents gave them no power to anticipate any difficulty. He found no occasion to mention the name of Governor Walker, which authorized his intervention to mould the institutions of Kansas and dictate to the inhabitants of the Territory and to their delegates in convention, not only what they should, but must do. For his pro-consular tone even to that height. He said he considered the convention invested with full power to form a constitution, and after all to submit it to the territorial inhabitants or to send it direct to Congress, in order that Kansas might be admitted as a State into the Union. He thought much error had arisen from the failure to bear in mind the difference between this convention of a Territory and a convention representing the sovereign people of a State. He referred to the doctrine of squatter sovereignty as one which he had always considered a fallacy, and pointed generally to the disastrous consequences which had flowed from it. But he said, leaving that as a question which had been discussed in other times, he now only presented the question of the constitutionality of the condition of the Territory under the prevailing theory and practice. When the convention formed the constitution, though they should refer it and it should receive the sanction of every man, woman, and child who might then chance to be in the Territory, this joint action of the convention and the inhabitants created no constitution to the instrument which had been formed. A Territory had two constitutions—the people and the federal government. The ratification in the case of a State convention would be final, as the authority to convene would also necessarily come from the people of a State. It being, then, too plain an illustration that it is only the admission of a State into the Union that the constitution adopted in this territorial condition can have any value or practical effect, and as it was most desirable to separate the question of the domestic institutions of this incipient State from all intervention, whether congressional or executive, it had seemed to him that the shortest was the best route; that is, that the convention should form a constitution, and send it direct to the Congress, asking to be recognized as a State and to be admitted into the Union. His long acquaintance and close relations with the President whilst he was a private citizen did not permit him to doubt his willingness and his ability to hold the scales even between the two great sections of our country, and that the influence of the President would be used to cure the speedy admission of the State, recognizing the right of the convention, as the representative of the body politic of Kansas, to decide the question as to whether the constitution should be submitted to a popular vote or not.

He alluded at some length to the political history of Gov. Walker, and spoke of him as one whose talents and acquisitions had commanded his admiration, and to whom he had for many years held the kindest personal relations. He expected of Gov. Walker when he went to Kansas to discharge his duties fairly towards the contending parties, whilst he had good reason to believe that in his private life he would be true to the pro-slavery man. He read, therefore, with equal regret and surprise, his inaugural address and Topeka speech.

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